

APPLICANTS: HAJ-YEHIA, Abdullah
SERIAL NO.: 09/856,616
FILED: July 31, 2001
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REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and/or rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. Claims 1-10 have been objected to. Claims 11-12 have been rejected. Claims 1-3 have been amended.

Claims 4-5 and 11-12 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. In making this cancellation without prejudice, Applicants reserve all rights in these claims to file divisional and/or continuation patent applications.

New claim 13 has been added in order to further define what the Applicants consider to be the invention. Applicants respectfully assert that no new matter has been added.

Claims 2-3 have been voluntarily amended for clarification only. This amendment does not narrow the scope of the claim, nor is it being made for reasons of patentability. The amended claim is not subject to the complete bar against the use of the Doctrine of Equivalents as outlined in Festo Corporation v. Shoketsu Kinsoku Kogyo Kapushiki Co., Ltd. a/ka/ SMC Corporation and SMt Pneumatics, Inc., as the amendment does not narrow the scope of the claim, nor is it being made for reasons of patentability.

Applicants respectfully assert that the amendments to the claims add no new matter.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that claims 1-10 would be allowable if rewritten to include only the examined elected subject matter of group VI.

Claim 1 has been rewritten to include only the examined elected subject matter of group VI. Claims 4-5 have been canceled.

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Remarks to the Drawings

Applicants note the objection of the Draftsperson of all the figures. Applicants request permission to defer submission of formal drawings correcting these objections until the present application is allowed.

Claim Objections

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 1-10 because of alleged informalities. Claim 1 has been amended in order to cure these informalities. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the objection.

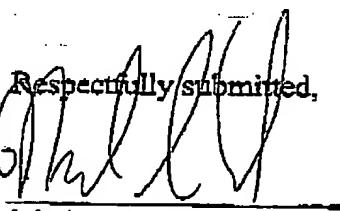
CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. § 101 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 11-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

Applicants have canceled claims 11-12. Therefore, this rejection is now moot.

No fee is deemed necessary for filing this Communication. However, if any fee is required, the undersigned Attorney hereby authorizes the United States Patent and Trademark Office to charge Deposit Account 05-0649.

Respectfully submitted,


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